

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 15

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 16, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 25, Miller. Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

This measure would proclaim the 3rd full week in September in each year as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week, and would urge California residents to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.

WHEREAS, Mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of a person's body and create more than 90 percent of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondria may not function correctly due to genetic defects or damage caused by drugs or destructive molecules known as free radicals; and

WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death follow, and, if the process is repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated symptoms, such as seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure, and progressive muscle weakness, but more often they cause failure of several organ systems in sequence; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases can affect any person at any age; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that every 30 minutes a child is born that will develop a mitochondrial disease before he or she reaches 10 years of age, totaling 4,000 children each year; and

WHEREAS, At least one in 200 individuals in the general public have a mitochondrial disease that may lead to another disease; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that mitochondrial diseases are underdiagnosed because mitochondrial disorders mimic other diseases and the diagnosis process itself is difficult and time consuming, having only been first diagnosed in adults in the 1960s and first diagnosed in children in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Research has consistently shown that mitochondrial dysfunction is at the core of many very common illnesses and chronic conditions of adulthood, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, osteoporosis, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, Currently no cures or effective therapies exist, but early diagnosis can help a patient and his or her family use proper medication and nutritional supplements to improve the quality of life, and even to prolong life; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that the federal government make research for mitochondrial diseases a priority and fully fund research initiatives to find a cure; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that all California residents be better informed about mitochondrial diseases and their impact; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the third full week in September in each year as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week, and California residents are urged to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.